

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set out in the claim listing below.

1. (Currently amended) A probiotic tablet comprising a probiotic micro-organism and other nutritionally active ingredients, the tablet comprising at least two zones, a first of said zones comprising said probiotic micro-organism, and a second of said zones comprising at least one said other active ingredient kept separated from the probiotic micro-organism of said first zone, the water activity in said probiotic micro-organism containing first zone being no greater than 0.2 and the water content of said tablet being no less than 0.2% by weight, and comprising in said second zone at least one material selected from the group consisting of iron, copper, chromium, zinc, vitamin B6, manganese, pantothenic acid and pantothenic acid salts as a said other active ingredient.
2. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone contains also selenium as a said at least one other active ingredient.
3. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of iron.
4. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of copper.
5. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of vitamin B6.
6. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of vitamin C.
7. [Original] A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of zinc.

8. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of manganese.
9. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of chromium.
10. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of pantothenic acid or its salts.
11. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains iron as at least one said other active ingredient.
12. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains vitamin B6 as at least one said other active ingredient.
13. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains vitamin C as at least one said other active ingredient.
14. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains copper as at least one said other active ingredient.
15. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains manganese as at least one said other active ingredient.
16. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains pantothenic acid or a salt thereof as at least one said other active ingredient.
17. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains zinc as at least one said other active ingredient.
18. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains chromium as at least one said other active ingredient.

19. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second zone contains any two or more of iron, vitamin B6, vitamin C, pantothenic acid or a salt thereof, zinc, copper, chromium and manganese, each as at least one said other active ingredient.
20. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the probiotic micro-organism is mixed with a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism.
21. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second zone contains a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism.
22. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the probiotic micro-organism is mixed with a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism or wherein the second zone contains a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism, and wherein said desiccant material comprises at least one of carboxymethylcellulose, colloidal silica, polyvinylpyrrolidone, starch, gelatine, hydroxypropylcellulose - low-substituted, microcrystalline cellulose, fumed silicon dioxide, sodium croscarmellose, crospovidone, povidone, magnesium aluminium silicate, methylcellulose, sodium alginate, sodium starch glyconate, gelatine, pregelatinized starch, or sorbitol.
23. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, having a multilayer structure comprising at least two layers, one of said layers constituting said first zone and another of said layers constituting said second zone.
24. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is free of encapsulated iron.
25. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is free of encapsulated zinc.

26. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is free of encapsulated copper.
27. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone contains encapsulated vitamin B1.
28. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone contains encapsulated vitamin B6.
29. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said second zone contains encapsulated zinc.
30. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is contains encapsulated manganese.
31. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in any claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone contains encapsulated vitamin A, D, E, B12 or B2.
32. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, having a multitude of granules constituting said first zone surrounded by a matrix, and wherein said matrix constitutes said second zone or wherein said matrix also contains a multitude of granules constituting said second zone.
33. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is at least 1% by weight.
34. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is at least 2% by weight.
35. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is at least 3% by weight.

36. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 4% by weight.
37. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 5% by weight.
38. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 6% by weight.
39. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 7% by weight.
40. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.15.
41. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 40, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.1.
42. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 41, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.05.
43. (Currently amended) A probiotic tablet comprising a probiotic micro-organism and other nutritionally active ingredients, the tablet comprising at least two zones, a first of said zones comprising said probiotic micro-organism, and a second of said zones comprising at least one said other active ingredient kept separated from the probiotic micro-organism of said first zone, the water activity in said probiotic micro-organism containing first zone being no greater than 0.02 and the water content of said tablet being no less than 0.2% by weight ~~A tablet as claimed in claim 42, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.02.~~
44. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water activity of the tablet is below 0.15.

45. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone is separated from said second zone by a water excluding barrier material.
46. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tablet is surrounded by a water excluding material.
47. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1 stored in a container containing a desiccant for absorbing water so as to reduce the water activity in the area surrounding said tablet, and/or containing an oxygen scavenging agent and/or containing an inert gas atmosphere.
48. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 45, wherein a said barrier material is a fat or wax based barrier material.
49. (Withdrawn) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone contains also one or more of iodine, magnesium, nicotinamide and folic acid as a said at least one other active ingredient.
50. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon immersion in water a first of said zones disintegrates at a faster rate than a second of said zones such that the time for disintegration of said faster disintegrating zone as a percentage of the total time for disintegration of the faster and the slower disintegrating zones is no more than 50%.
51. (New) A probiotic tablet comprising a probiotic micro-organism and other nutritionally active ingredients, the tablet comprising at least two zones, a first of said zones comprising said probiotic micro-organism, and a second of said zones comprising at least one said other active ingredient kept separated from the probiotic micro-organism of said first zone, the water activity in said probiotic micro-organism containing first zone being no greater than 0.2 and the water content of said tablet being no less than 0.2% by weight, wherein said first zone containing said probiotic micro-organisms is not separated from said second zone by a barrier material.